

INFORM

The Newsletter of Jack Hunt School

A Specialist Language and Sports College

CONGRATULATIONS!



Britain's First Obama?

Year 13 student, Furhaan Altaf came runner up for the Cambridgeshire Young Person of the Year Award, the finals of which took place in Cambridge on 4 December 2008.

Furhaan was nominated by his friends for this prestigious award because of his commitment and accomplishments in both his charity work and local politics. In his spare time he works for the Samaritans and as a Befriender for Age Concern. He has been invited to become part of the Young Muslim Advisory Group which will involve setting up a conference in

Peterborough to address issues such as extremism whilst also currently serving as Deputy Youth MP for Peterborough, which includes sitting on the Environment Sub Group and is a panel member for the Youth Bank. Furhaan will be running for election in February and whilst concentrating on his 'A' Level studies at school, he is also a House Leader for Nightingale House and Mentor to a Year 8 student.

Furhaan has also been nominated for the Evening Telegraph's Pride of Peterborough Award – Young Person of the Year. Michelle McGrath who nominated Furhaan said "Furhaan has done so much and puts himself before others, but he is very modest and I wanted him to be recognised for everything that he does".

Furhaan recently attended the Circle of Influence Conference in London on behalf of the UK Youth Parliament and was interviewed by a German TV show, making a special report about Ethnic minorities becoming leaders in non-ethnic countries, along with Nick Clegg, Leader of the Liberal Democrats. When Furhaan was asked if the UK would have their own Barack Obama in the future, he replied that **he** would be the next Barack Obama.

When asked why he was so involved in politics at such an early age Furhaan said "I believe in making a positive change".

Outside politics and voluntary work Furhaan is interested in a career in the medical profession as a radiographer, but ultimately would like to further his political career and has plenty of ambition to get to the top as Prime Minister!

Mr Gilligan/Editor

Diary Dates

2008

Tuesday 16 December

Presentation Evening - 7.00 pm

Friday 19 December

Term ends (1.25 pm)

2009

Tuesday 6 January

Term starts

Thursday 8 January -

Friday 30 January

Examinations - Key Skills, GCSE, AS & A Level

Thursday 15 January

Year 8 Parents Afternoon

Year 13 UCAS Deadline

Thursday 22 January

Year 11 Parents Evening

Monday 26 January

Year 11 Post 16 Applications

Deadline

Monday 2 February

Year 13 Reports sent this week

Wednesday 4 February

Year 10 Parents Afternoon

Thursday 5 February

Intermediate Maths Challenge

(Years 9/10/11)

Monday 9 February

Year 12 Post 17 Applications

Deadline

Year 12 Reports home this week

Tuesday 10 February -

Thursday 12 February

School Musical "Wizard of Oz"

Friday 13 February

Break for Half Term

Monday 23 February

Term resumes

Thursday 26 February

Year 9 Parents Evening (Options)

House	Sports Ambassadors	House Leaders
Brunel	Saqib Rasib – BASD	Robin Colley – BFD
	Ellen Dolan – BHV	Chyenne Graves – BHG
Curie	Sarah Magill – CCY	Simon Henry – CSL
	Alessandro Corbino – CJL	Mia Hemming – CLI
Einstein	Karl Hyndman – EHA	Lucy Cousset – EHA
	Sumekcha Rai – EDA	Kiran McLoughlin – EDA
Kennedy	Sam Wilson – KME	Awais Ahmed – KTR
	Jessica Evans – KCT	Amrita Kaur – KSV
Mandela	Amal Abdul-Wahid – MCO	Leena Pankhania – MGM
	Henry Tokely – MDR	Andrew King – MGE
Nightingale	Victoria Jarvis – NDMN	Amy Simms – NSA
		Furhaan Altaf – NQL

Congratulations to all those who have been successfully nominated as Form representatives and to the following for their appointment as House Leaders /Sports Ambassadors.

These are new roles that have been developed as part of the new, and extremely successful and popular, Vertical Tutor Group and House System. Form Representatives have an important role in passing the opinions and ideas of their tutor groups to the Head of House for discussion at meetings. House Leaders are figureheads of the student body within their respective Houses and therefore have a highly responsible role to play coordinating and leading House activities. Sports Ambassadors are there to organise and manage sporting activities both within and between Houses. For a school that has a specialism in sport, this too is an important role.

Well done to them all!

Mr Gilligan



Headteacher's Column

Following the completion of the capital project to expand and re-model some parts of the existing

buildings the Local Authority has undertaken a capacity assessment of the school. The result is that the Local Authority require the school to admit more children to the school with effect from September 2009. Numbers for the new Year 7 will be 300 rather than the current 270 and the school will gradually increase in size over the next few years.

The Governors and management are disappointed at this reversal of policy for the school. An agreement had been made with the Local Authority prior to the start of the building project that the

student population would increase by 30 children in each year group as a result of the closure of Bretton Woods Community School and Walton Community school. All the decisions regarding the design and re-modelling of the school were made on that basis. However, the school is now working to put in place a plan to cater for the additional numbers the school is required to take.

We congratulate those students who have succeeded in applying for positions as House Leaders and Sports Ambassadors for their Houses. The new vertical tutoring system is providing a range of opportunities for students to take on positions of responsibility and to develop their leadership skills.

As Christmas approaches all tutor groups have prepared Christmas hampers (84 of them!) for distribution to people in need in the local community. There have been some wonderful designs and a competition is underway to select the best. Other Christmas events will be happening over the coming days many of which will raise money for charities which the students will nominate.

From everyone at Jack Hunt we wish our readers a happy and enjoyable Christmas and New Year. We also hope our Muslim families had an enjoyable Eid celebration during December.

Mr Duncan

National Anti-Bullying Week

The week 17 November – 21 November 2008 was National Anti-Bullying Week and we at Jack Hunt School were very keen to support this.

As part of the Anti-Bullying theme a Focus Group was formed last year who meet regularly to discuss any bullying issues raised in school and ways to tackle these. This has led to a much better overall student awareness of such issues and various systems being implemented into the school system, such as confidential Anti-Bullying suggestion boxes, emptied weekly enabling issues to be dealt with as they arise.

During the week, the Focus Group sold official Anti-Bullying bracelets and displayed posters around the school. Various discussions and worksheets were prepared for tutor times regarding the Anti-Bullying message, alongside a group exercise whereby students were asked to write a personal pledge to be placed inside blue biodegradable balloons ready to be released on Friday.

Events for the week culminated in "Blue Friday" when we celebrated a successful week with a "blue" dress down day and everyone donated a minimum of 50p. The Year 7's were organised to form a human slogan reading 'JHS, SAY NO TO BULLIES' and released the balloons containing the Anti-Bullying pledges. This was an enjoyable way to finish off the week and raise the awareness and in total we raised £868.36.

The whole week was supported by former Jack Hunt student Aston Merrygold, singer in "JLS" of X-Factor fame. Unable to make an appearance due to other commitments he sent a message for us to use in our campaign, "I wish bullies would stop and think how they would feel if it happened to them". This support helped us to raise the profile of the campaign.

Ms Hamilton



Official Opening of the Amit Mehta Laboratory

Jack Hunt School celebrated the opening of a new Science Laboratory which has been dedicated to the memory of former student, Amit Mehta on Wednesday 15 October 2008.

Amit Mehta died unexpectedly aged 25 in December 2005 after suffering many health problems. Amit was deaf, partially sighted and suffered from diabetes and anaemia, which required regular blood transfusions but he did not let his problems affect his studies or his positive outlook on life. Despite his problems Amit graduated from the University of Leeds with a 2:1 where he had been studying Cellular Biology. As part of his PhD, he was studying the effect that Alzheimer's has on the brain and he was close to finishing his study on the subject.

The opening was attended by invited local dignitaries, present and former staff members, School Governors and family and friends. Roy Duncan welcomed the guests to the event and said "Amit had so many barriers to his learning but he was an inspiration to us all in what can be achieved with

his dedication to study and hard work. We are very grateful to Dr and Mrs Mehta for their generous donation which has enabled us to upgrade this laboratory for the benefit of current and future students". Dr Mehta said that Jack Hunt held a special place for his son who, even after he left the school, often returned to meet the staff and teaching assistants who had supported him through his seven years at the school. Mrs Mehta said "We hope the lab will keep his name alive. It is important for us that he can be remembered."

Other memorials in Amit's honour include a secondary school for the deaf in Surat, Gujarat, Western India, which has been named the Amit Mehta School for the Deaf. Funds for the building were donated by Dr and Mrs Mehta and an Amit Mehta Prize was launched at Leeds University for students who have overcome the odds to reach their goals.



Einstein House held the first of their annual **Mastermind Championships** in October. One contestant from each of the 14 forms answered questions on as diverse specialist subjects as Arsenal FC and Lifeguard Rules at Jack Hunt Swimming Pool. The eventual winner was Farzin Mavani (10EHA) who amazed everyone with the speed of her answers in mental maths. She won a mortarboard, trophy and 80 House Points for her form.

Mr Blant

CSI Jack Hunt

On Tuesday 4 November 2008 David Barron who is a Crime Scenes Investigator came to talk to the Sociology and Psychology 'A' Level students about his work. He gave some good careers advice about criminology, forensic science and working in various areas of the police force. David told us about some highly interesting (and gruesome) cases that the CSI helped to solve and the role they played. A really good and knowledgeable time was had by the students, who behaved wonderfully! Many of our students are now considering a career in criminology.

Mrs Clifton-Attfield

Intercambio con Colegio Principado

In September Miss Crowson and Mrs Davis took 17 students to Avilés to visit their exchange partners. The exchange is now in its 5th successful year. We visited many cultural sites in the cities of Gijón and Oviedo and we had an audience with the Mayor. This included Mrs Davis being interviewed for the local television station! The group also had lots of fun tasting typical dishes. The chocolate con churros were a particular favourite!

As always many friendships were made during the visit and there were lots of tears at the airport when it came to the time to say farewell. The Spanish students will be returning to Jack Hunt in June on their annual visit. If you are interested in hosting an exchange partner in June **and** visiting Avilés next September please look out for further details from your Spanish teachers in the New Year.

Miss Crowson



Venga!!! Gifted and Talented students go Spanish!

A lively, Spanish - themed day of activities was held on Saturday 11 October 2008. The school set up the activity as part of the work to promote gifted and talented students.

Thirty students from Year 7 were selected for the enrichment day, which was a follow-up to a successful Summer School in July. Students attended three main sessions; Spanish aerobics; they tasted Spanish food such as chorizo and sang and danced to Spanish music. The day provided an exciting opportunity for students to learn more advanced Spanish not normally covered as early as Year 7. All students learned a lot and thoroughly enjoyed the day.

The school plans to continue the programme of activities for such students over the coming year.

Ms Gorham



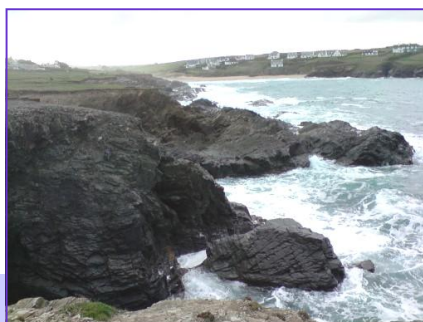
Year 12 Field Trip to Cornwall

On Monday 17 November 2008 eleven Geographers woke to the sound of the Irish Sea pounding the Northern Coastline of Cornwall. In the dark and the driving rain of the night previous they were unaware of the beautiful yet treacherous landscape that lay just outside of their windows. Treynon Bay is a magnificent natural cove, in the centre of which, teetering on the top of a 30 to 40 foot cliff was the Treynon Youth Hostel, our home for the next four days.

As Geographers our purpose for being in Cornwall was to complete a number of field visits, taking in the sights of Mevagissey and St Austell, on Cornwall's South coast, St Ives to the West and Newquay to the North. During the travelling between these different destinations we would stop at Poldark Mine, a former tin mine, now a tourist attraction and The Eden Project, which is a collection of biomes housing a plethora of botanical species from around the world and which took its origins from a 160 year old china clay quarry. Within each location the aim was to look at a new geographical concept called "Rebranding", which involves both re-imaging and regeneration and includes a wide range of strategies by which places reinvent themselves to provide a more prosperous future. In the case of Cornwall this rebranding can be seen through the decline of traditional industries such as mining, fishing and farming to the more social and lucrative tourist industry.

The weather was wonderful, the cream was clotted and the pasties were perfect. All in all Cornwall was a superb backdrop for the Year 12's to complete their first field trip. The next takes place in Brighton and already it has a lot to live up to.

Mr Brooks



Positively Mad

On Tuesday 18 November 2008 the Positively Mad Company came into school to help Year 11 with their Mock exam preparation. All Year 11 students took part and learnt how to revise more effectively. The students gained a lot of revision ideas including techniques to breakdown large amounts of text and crucially to recall the key facts from the text. They can also now count to ten in Japanese!

It was brilliant to see over 250 Year 11 students working on creating well thought out mind maps and I am sure all the students picked up a few tips to make their GCSE year even better.

Mr Craig



Year 11, 12 and 13 students enjoyed being a University student for a day at the **University of East Anglia, Norwich**. On 12 November 2008, 25 students attended a Mathematics lecture, browsed bookshops, investigated University Faculties, Schools of Medicine, Social Work and Psychosocial Studies. The group also sampled Campus food in the Student Union and canteens, and discovered more about types of accommodation and general ways of student life. The more cultured chose to explore the wonders of The Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts and a few found an opportunity to discover the UEA Estate which includes a lake, butterfly sanctuary and bird reserve. Ms Sharman, being an enthusiast of the writings of Lewis Carroll, was engaged in the lecture, but a slight criticism from the students was that there was not enough mathematical content.

Ms Sharman



Joint Help = Success

Leading Parent Partnership Award



Help us sow the seeds for a greener tomorrow

I'm happy to tell you that Jack Hunt School has joined Generation Green, a new programme from British Gas to help our children do their bit to make the planet greener.

Greener at school

During the year, we will be undertaking green tasks to encourage us to save energy and cut our carbon emissions. Tasks can be as simple as appointing a lights monitor for each classroom or as complex as measuring our carbon footprint.

Greener in the classroom

We will also be incorporating environmental issues in our curriculum to inspire children to take an active role in protecting the environment.

Greener at home

Any support you can give us will be very welcome. For example, going along with your children when they ask you to do green things at home. Small actions like switching off lights to save energy can make a big difference.

We earn leaves for completing green activities and can exchange the leaves for school equipment such as water butts, compost bins, recycling bins, gardening equipment and even solar panels! One easy way to earn 100 leaves for the school is to complete an energy savers report and donate your leaves to the school. It would be very much appreciated if you could take a couple of minutes to fill out a report online and donate your leaves to Jack Hunt School!

<http://www.britishgas.co.uk/esr> Thank you for your support.

Mrs Pantling

Sustainable Schools Coordinator



National Poetry Day 2008 Winners

Sunnah Hussain and Emma Gordon were the lucky winners of this year's National Poetry Day competition launched by the Library Resource Centre. They both wrote fantastic poems, which showed their talent and suggests real potential for the future.

Sunnah won the competition for poems based on this year's theme of work with her Kenning poem about a clown, whilst Emma won the competition for poems on other topics. As a reward for their efforts, they each received a book of poetry from Miss Donaldson, on behalf of the English Department and the Library.

On National Poetry Day, students in KS3 were encouraged to think about the different poetic approaches to the theme of "Work" in English lessons. Many students entered their work from these lessons into the competition, examples of which can be seen on display boards by the Library.

Miss Donaldson

Large Turnout for Post 16 Information Evening

Tuesday 11 November 2008 saw the hall packed with Year 11 students and parents all here to find out about Sixth Form education at Jack Hunt School. After presentations from Mr Duncan, Mr Gilligan, Mr Fricker and the Senior Prefect Team, students visited curriculum area 'stands' to discuss AS, A2 and vocational courses as well as the new Diploma in Society, Health and Development. In all, there are over 30 one and two year courses to choose from along with a very extensive range of extra curricular activities which develop leadership, project management, personal, social and teamwork skills. It was this element of Sixth Form life which surprised many. "I didn't realise there was so much on offer but it's true, I've checked!" said one student.

After their mock examinations and the Year 11 Parents Evening in January 2009, students will submit their application form which will be followed up with an interview.

Jack Hunt School will be delivering the Diploma in Society, Health and Development from September 2009 and Mrs Collins is the lead teacher who will be able to provide further details.

Mr Gilligan



UK Maths Trust Senior Mathematics Challenge took place on Thursday 6 November 2008 involving 60 of our gifted Mathematicians in Year 11, 12 and 13. Students are able to achieve Gold, Silver or Bronze Awards and past involvement has led to students not only achieving this National Award but also taking part in an International Olympiad.

Ms Sharman

Modern Languages

Sixty Year 9 students are working with Mr Nawaz and Mr Ali to prepare for the Asset Languages Exam in Urdu. This new exam corresponds to the European Languages' Ladder and will be an excellent preparation for the GCSE course, as well as being a recognised qualification in itself. All of the students have just taken their first speaking unit at Breakthrough or Preliminary levels and are to be congratulated on their efforts.

'Boost Languages'

There is an opportunity for students in Year 9 or above who speak another language at home to gain an extra GCSE or 'A' level in that language. Please see Mrs Norman if interested. A Portuguese group has begun. If anyone missed out, please ensure they let Mrs Norman know or attend on Tuesday after school.

Language Leaders' Award

A Language Leaders' group is starting for Year 9 students. As with the Sports Leaders' Award, a leadership qualification will be accessible through leading language learning both at a local primary school and working with younger students at Jack Hunt. Further information is available from Mrs Norman.

Ms Hopkins